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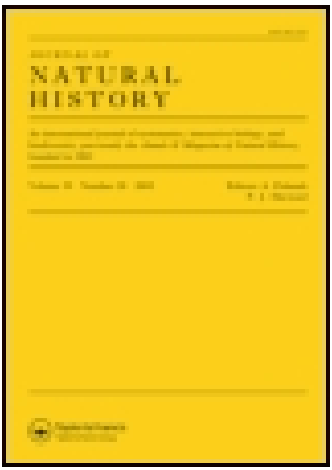

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Characters of a new species of Dryops from Formosa (Coleoptera, Parnidæ)

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Lastly the Rhynchocœles or Nemertians are represented in the deep fauna by *Prostomum lineare* and *Prorhynchus stagnalis*, which are also found, the former in the pools of the shore, the latter in springs and under the stones of rivulets.

These observations are sufficient to show that the deep fauna of the Lake of Geneva has originated, at least as regards the Turbellaria, from the littoral and paludicolous species of the neighbouring regions. Yet (and this is the most remarkable point in this investigation) two species of the deep fauna completely evade this interpretation, owing to the fact that they are not found in the waters of the shores, and that, on the contrary, they resemble Mediterranean types. These two species have been provisionally described under the names of *Vortex lemani* and *Mesostomum morgiense*, and probably belong to new genera. The latter, in particular, is certainly not a true *Mesostomum*, but belongs to a family of Turbellaria hitherto exclusively marine. These two forms, without analogues in the remainder of our fauna, are at the same time those which reach the greatest depth. They have only been found in a few other European lakes—as, for instance, in that of Starnberg, in Bavaria.

The class Turbellaria is not, however, the only one which presents facts of this kind. M. Vernet has found amongst the crustaceans of the deep fauna a form related to the genus *Cythere*, which is, as is well known, exclusively marine. M. Duplessis has himself remarked amongst the Arachnida of the lake two species which bear a striking resemblance to marine types. One is the *Campognatha Forelli*, which so exactly resembles a small *Campognatha* of the Mediterranean shores, that at the first glance one might confound the two species. The other belongs to a singular genus, which also occurs in the mud of the Mediterranean. How can facts of this nature be explained? Perhaps we have here the last remains of a marine population, some types of which have accommodated themselves to fresh water as the sea retreated. This, however, is a mere conjecture; and we all know how circumspectly we must venture upon this ground.—*Bibl. Univ.* Oct. 15, 1877, *Arch. des Sciences*, p. 326.

Characters of a new Species of Dryops *from Formosa* (Coleoptera, Parnidæ). By Charles O. Waterhouse.

The British Museum has recently received a small collection of objects of natural history from the island of Formosa. They were presented by Mr. Matthew Dickson; and among the Coleoptera I find a specimen of the genus *Dryops* which belongs undoubtedly to an undescribed species. I propose to name it

Dryops Dicksoni.

D. elongatus, griseo-flavescens, sericeus; thorace parum convexo, disco medio leviter impresso, angulis posticis divergentibus, acutissimis; elytris striatis.

Long. 4 lin.

Very closely allied to *D. substriatus*; but, besides being nearly double the size, it differs in having the thorax less convex, with a slight impression on the disk, the sides are less arcuate and more distinctly margined, and the posterior angles are much more diverging. The elytra are more distinctly broader than the thorax, more evidently striated; and, lastly, the pubescence on the head and thorax is more erect and darker in colour.

Hab. Formosa.

British Museum,
May 15, 1878.

On the Organ called "Dorsal Chord" in Amphioxus lanceolatus.
By MM. J. Renaut and G. Duchamp.

In the Vertebrata the tissues of the skeleton may be divided into three principal categories:—1, the primary axis, formed by the dorsal chord; 2, the cartilaginous tissue; 3, the osseous tissue. These different tissues succeed one another in the higher animals, and the definitive skeleton is formed by bone, or at least by true or calcified cartilage. At this period there only remain rare vestiges of the primary axis or dorsal chord; so that, except *Amphioxus*, we know of no Vertebrate of which the definitive skeleton is represented solely by a persistent notochord.

This organ, moreover, possesses in the series typical characters which it is necessary to refer to briefly; it is formed of globular cells, soldered to one another after the fashion of epithelia, as transparent as glass, and possessing a very distinct nucleus (usually thrown back to the periphery).

The dorsal chord of fishes does not differ fundamentally from that of the embryos of the highest Mammalia. That of *Amphioxus*, on the contrary, presents no arrangement resembling the structure just described. It is contained in a cylindrical sheath which envelops it on all sides; and, in sections made perpendicularly to the general axis of the body, after hardening in dextrine and alcohol, it proves to be constituted as follows:—

In the interior of the sheath, stretched horizontally from the left to the right side, are seen some fibres of uniform diameter, cylindrical, solid, and adhering by their extremities to the general envelope. In proportion as they approach the dorsal surface these fibres curve gently upwards, so as to circumscribe in the median line, between the sheath and the chord, an empty spindle-shaped space. On the ventral side the same arrangement is repeated in the opposite direction; so that only the fibres of the middle plane are horizontal and rectilinear.

In a longitudinal section passing through the axis of the chord and the two sides of the body the sheath is shown divided in the direction of its length; and the area thus intercepted is occupied by the fibres of the chord, which consequently offer a scalariform arrangement relatively to the two margins of the sheath.

In such a preparation, suitably coloured by means of picrocarminate of ammonia or of eosine dissolved in water, we observe the following details:—